

Introduced by Senators Wiggins and Pavley

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chesbro, Evans, Huffman, Nava, and Skinner)

March 25, 2009

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to the federal Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, as introduced, Wiggins. Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act.

This measure would call upon the Congress of the United States to quickly pass the federal Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act and the President of the United States to expeditiously sign it into law.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Inclusion in the National Marine Sanctuary System
- 2 offers comprehensive and permanent protection to important
- 3 marine resources, large scale ecosystem management, and vital
- 4 oceanic research investments, while allowing for recreational,
- 5 shipping, and fishing activities; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Sonoma and Marin Counties' coastal waters just
- 7 south of Bodega Head are within the boundaries of the Gulf of the
- 8 Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and
- 9 enjoy the protections and benefits of the National Marine Sanctuary
- 10 System; and

1 WHEREAS, The Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank
2 National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection
3 Act (H.R. 223 and S. 212), authored by Congresswoman Lynn
4 Woolsey and sponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer, would adjust
5 the boundaries of those two marine sanctuaries north and westward
6 to add deeper and biologically important waters, and would extend
7 the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine
8 Sanctuary just past Point Arena, thus including the entire Sonoma
9 Coast and the southern Mendocino Coast; and

10 WHEREAS, The area encompassed by the Sonoma Coast and
11 southern Mendocino Coast is one of the most biologically rich
12 regions in the world. These waters are within one of the four coastal
13 upwelling zones on the planet, comprising only 1 percent of the
14 ocean, but producing 20 percent of the world's fish. Additionally,
15 the coastal estuaries of that area are important passages for
16 endangered salmon and steelhead, essential haul sites places for
17 seals and sea lions, migration corridors for the California Gray
18 Whale and other whale species, and prolific nurseries for hundreds
19 of aquatic species; and

20 WHEREAS, These important marine resources, among the
21 richest on the planet, must be protected from oil spills and other
22 forms of pollution; and

23 WHEREAS, By expanding the boundaries of the Gulf of the
24 Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, the
25 Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine
26 Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act (H.R. 223
27 and S. 212) will protect the University of California, Davis, Bodega
28 Marine Laboratory's investment in marine research, regional jobs
29 that are dependent on commercial and recreational fishing, tourism,
30 recreational uses, and indefinable aesthetic benefits; and

31 WHEREAS, A congressional and executive moratorium on
32 offshore oil exploration and exploitation was removed in 2008,
33 leaving these waters of special biological significance unprotected;
34 now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
36 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature joins with the Counties of
37 Marin, Mendocino, and Sonoma, the California Coastal
38 Commission, and the State Lands Commission to call upon the
39 Congress of the United States to quickly pass the Gulf of the
40 Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

1 Boundary Modification and Protection Act (H.R. 223 and S. 212)
2 and the President of the United States to expeditiously sign that
3 act into law; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
5 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
6 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
7 President pro Tempore of the Senate, to each Senator and
8 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
9 States, and to the Chairs of the House Committee on National
10 Resources and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
11 Transportation.

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